Number of Militants and their outfits in Jammu and Kashmir

3531. SHRIMATI VfENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast difference between the estimated number of militants and their outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir, as given out by the GOC-in-C, Northern Command;

(b) if so, what is Government's estimate about the number of such, militants operating in the State and the details of their outfits; and

(c) the steps taken to mop up and liquidate the militant outfits and to bring the youths involved in such activities into the national stream?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) According to available information there are a number of self-styled militant outfits operating in Jammu nd Kashmir, including Hizbul Mujahidecn, Harkat Ul Ansar, Lashkar-c-Toiba, Al-Jehad, Jamait-up-Mujahi-decn, Al-Ulmar Mujahidecn, Hizbullah, Al-Barq, JKLF, Hizbul Mominecn, etc. Since such organisations are underground and clandestine in nature it is not possible to make any precise estimate about the number of militants, and there are also bound to be differences in the estimates of different agencies depending upon their deployment and area of operations, etc. A close watch is continuously kept on the activities of the militants and the deployment of the forces and operations arc planned accordingly. Various measures have been taken to contain terrorist activities, such as sustained vigilance/patrolling on the bordcr/LOC and in the hinterland, active operations to flush out militants, establishment of pickets in vulnerable areas, strengthening and reactivation of the local Police, strengthening of the Intelligence machinery, streamlining of the arrangements for coordination among the various security agencies, etc.

Apart from the anti-militant operations the Government has also consistently laid stress on the reactivation of the local civilian administration and the political forces, strengthening of the grievance rcdrcssal machinery and acceleration of the economic and developmental activities including creation of additional employment opportunities which are expected to isolate militants further and encourage them to come into the main stream. A Surrender Policy was also announced by the State Government in August 1995 following which around 1200 militants have surrendered with a large quantity of arms. Steps are being taken by the Government for the proper re. habituation of such persons including their recruitment in Central para-military foroes.

Smuggling of Chemical weapons into Jammu and Kashmir

3532. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Chemical weapons smuggled into Jammu and Kashmir" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 13th January, 1997;

(b) whether the BSF have seized chemical weapons in the Valley during the past three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the source through which the chemical weapons get entry into the Valley; ancj

(d) the action plan formulated by Government to check such activities?